

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method of error protection comprising:

detecting an error during communication between nodes in a network,  
said nodes separated by a link;

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blocking further communication between said nodes in response to said  
detected error; and

unblocking said blocked communication between said nodes, provided  
said communicating nodes have resolved said detected error, wherein said  
communication between said nodes is re-enabled.

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2. The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprises setting a link  
usage indicator in a first storage element by each of said communicating  
nodes prior to communication therebetween, and wherein each of said  
communicating nodes has a corresponding position in said first storage  
element, and wherein said link usage indicator set by each of said nodes is  
relative to said corresponding position in said first storage element.

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3. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said detection of said  
error causes a generation of an error indicator, said error indicator stored in a  
second storage element.

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4. The method as recited in Claim 3 further comprises activating a  
blocking agent to provide said blocking of said communication, said blocking  
agent activated in response to said generation of said error indicator.

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5. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said resolving of said  
detected error, said performed by each of said communicating nodes, is in a  
manner appropriate for each node.

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6. The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprises generating  
multiple clearing indicators by said nodes, wherein each of said nodes

generates one of said multiple clearing indicators subsequent to its said resolving of said error, wherein each of said clearing indicators corresponds to an associated corresponding position relative to said nodes, and wherein each of said clearing indicators resets a link usage indicator set by each of said nodes.

7. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein a first storage element and a second storage element are disposed in said link.

8. The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein a first storage element and a second storage element are disposed in said node.

9. A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of error protection comprising:

detecting an error during communication between nodes in a network, said nodes separated by a link;

blocking further communication between said nodes in response to said detected error;

unblocking said blocked communication between said nodes, provided said communicating nodes have resolved said detected error, wherein said communication between said nodes is re-enabled.

10. The computer-usable medium of Claim 9 wherein said method of error protection further comprises setting a link usage indicator stored in a first storage element by each of said communicating nodes prior to communication therebetween, and wherein each of said communicating nodes has a corresponding position in said first storage element, and wherein said link usage indicator set by each of said nodes is relative to said corresponding position in said first storage element.

11. The computer-usable medium of Claim 9 wherein said detection of said error causes a generation of an error indicator, said error indicator stored in a second storage element.

12. The computer-usable medium of Claim 11 wherein said method of error protection further comprises activating a blocking agent to provide said blocking of said communication, said blocking agent activated in response to said generation of said error indicator.

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13. The computer-usable medium of Claim 9 wherein said resolving of said detected error, said performed by each of said communicating nodes, is in a manner appropriate for each node.

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14. The computer-usable medium of Claim 9 wherein said method of error protection further comprises generating multiple clearing indicators by said nodes, wherein each of said nodes generates one of said clearing indicators subsequent to its said resolving of said error, wherein each of said clearing indicators corresponds to an associated corresponding position relative to said nodes, and wherein each of said clearing indicators resets a link usage indicator set by each of said nodes.

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15. The computer-usable medium of Claim 9 wherein a first storage element and a second storage element are disposed in said link.

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16. The computer-usable medium of Claim 9 wherein a first storage element and a second storage element are disposed in a said node.

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17. A computer system in a computer system network, said computer system comprising:

a communication interconnect;

an optional display device coupled to said communication interconnect;

a memory unit coupled to said communication interconnect; and

a processor coupled to said communication interconnect, said processor

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for executing a method of error protection comprising:

detecting an error during communication between nodes in a network, said nodes separated by a link;

blocking further communication between said nodes in response to said detected error; and

unblocking said blocked communication between said nodes, provided said communicating nodes have resolved said detected error, wherein said communication between said nodes is re-enabled.

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10     set by each of said nodes is relative to said corresponding position in said first storage element.

15           19.    The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said detection of said error causes a generation of an error indicator, said error indicator stored in a second storage element.

20           20.    The computer system of Claim 19 wherein said method of error protection further comprises activating a blocking agent to provide said blocking of said communication, said blocking agent activated in response to said generation of said error indicator.

25           21.    The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said resolving of said error, said performed by each of said communicating nodes, is in a manner appropriate for each node.

30           22.    The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said method of error protection further comprises generating multiple clearing indicators by said nodes, wherein each of said nodes generates one of said multiple clearing indicators subsequent to its resolving of said error, and wherein each of said clearing indicators corresponds to an associated corresponding position relative to said nodes, and wherein each of said clearing indicators resets a link usage indicator set by each of said nodes.

35           23.    The computer system of Claim 20 wherein a first storage element and a second storage element are disposed in said link.

24. The computer system of Claim 21 wherein a first storage element and a second storage element are disposed in said node.

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